

Amendments to the Specification:

At page one, after the title and before the first sentence, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of PCT Patent Application No. PCT/NL02/00371, designating the United States and filed 7 June 2002; which claims the benefit of European Patent Application Serial No. 01202220.8, filed 8 June 2001; both of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.--

After page 18, on new page 19, please insert the following abstract:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method of determining *in vitro* the capacity of a cell population to induce bone formation *in vivo* comprising the steps of: a_ providing a sample of a cell population; b) dividing said sample into a first and a second part containing an equal number of cells; c) culturing the first part in the presence of an osteogenic stimulation factor; d) culturing the second part in the absence of an osteogenic stimulation factor; e) determining degrees of expression of a bone-specific protein; and f) comparing the degrees of expression of the bone-specific protein of the first part and the second part thereby providing a measure for the capacity of the bone cell population to induce bone formation *in vivo*.--

New page 19 of the application with the abstract is also being herewith submitted.